

In the Drawings

Applicant files herewith a replacement set of drawings sheets 1-7. Fig. 4a has been amended by adding numbers 441 and 442. Fig. 6 has also been amended by adding numbers 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56.

Remarks

Claims 1-19 have been cancelled and new claims 29-38 have been added.
Claims 20-38 are now pending in the application.

In Fig. 4a, reference numbers 441 and 442 are newly added, and in Fig. 6, reference numbers 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56 are newly added.

Applicant submits that since clarifying amendments to Fig 4a showing parallel strips 442 on substrate 441 similar to 141 and 142 shown in Fig 3a, would be understood to exist in the wire-grid polarizer 44 by one skilled in the art they are not new matter. According to the amended Fig. 6, the "a polarizing beam splitter 625 directing light from the polarizer 54 toward a panel 622 or 623 producing an image to be projected" in claim 20 is shown. Therefore, the objection to the drawings is overcome. In addition, since in lines 22 to 23, page 8 of the specification "The illumination device 61 is the illumination device 50 in the second embodiment", Applicant submits that the amendment to Fig. 6 does not introduce any new matter. All of Figs 1-6 have been amended to conform to the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121, e.g. cross-section hatching etc.

As to Claim 20, the examiner rejects it as obvious based on the combination of U.S. 5,042,921 (Sato et al.) and U.S. 6,634,755 (Okuyama et al.). Although the examiner admits that Sato et al. discloses a projecting system comprising a light source (103) having a reflecting surface (105); a retardation (109) generating a phase difference of a quarter period between light before and after passing through the retardation; a polarizer (108) allowing light of a first polarity to pass through while reflecting light of a second polarity in Fig. 8, and does not disclose a polarizing beam splitter. The examiner further points out that Okuyama et al. discloses a polarizing beam splitter (111) for directing light from the polarizer toward a panel producing an image to be projected. Therefore, it would be obvious to a person skilled in the art to combine U.S. 5,042,921 and U.S. 6,634,755 to obtain Claim 20. Applicant submits that this is

incorrect because the reference number 108 of Fig. 8 of U.S. 5,042,921 designates a polarizing beam splitter (column 5, lines 39-41), not a polarizer.

Accordingly, the combination of U.S. 5,042,921 and U.S. 6,634,755 only can obtain two polarizing beam splitters. In comparison, Claim 20 of the present invention is characterized by arranging a polarizer to be associated with a polarizing beam splitter. Therefore, the combination of U.S. 5,042,921 and U.S. 6,634,755 does not teach or support the combination claimed in claim 20.

As to Claims 21 to 29, since they are dependent claims directly depending from Claim 20, they should be considered non-obvious if Claim 20 is non-obvious.

As to new Claim 30, a wire grid polarizer is included and also associated with a polarizing beam splitter. Further, the wire grid polarizer has multiple parallel strips supported by a substrate, which is distinguishable from a polarizing beam splitter in structure. For the same reason given above, applicant submits that Claim 30 is novel and non-obvious.

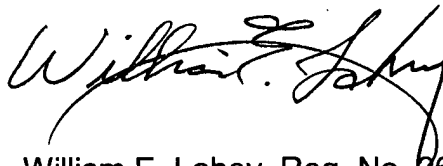
As to Claims 31 and 38, since they are dependent claims directly depending from Claim 30, they should be considered novel and non-obvious if Claim 30 is novel and non-obvious.

Given the above, there is no reason for a person skilled in this field to possess any capability, when the invention was made, to combine the technology provided by Sato et al. and Okuyama et al. to resolve the polarization issue as claimed in the present invention.

Conclusion

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with this Amendment D. If however, the Commissioner determines a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said government fees to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lahey", written in a cursive style.

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